



4/13/05

THIRD READING

SB 228 (Van Woerkom)

SB 228 would require the state to establish a student loan repayment program that would reimburse a percentage of educational loans incurred by up to 1,000 eligible agricultural employees in rural areas per year. The bill could create an obligation for the State of up to \$750,000 in the 2005-06 fiscal year. The obligation could increase by as much as an additional \$750,000 each year in future years. After 10 years, the State's obligation would reach a maximum and could be as much as \$7.5 million per year.

Support: Michigan Farm Bureau.

Oppose: Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Treasury.

- SB 228 passed [RC 70: 24 yes, 14 no].

THIRD READING

HB 4117 (Proos)

HB 4117 would permit local governmental units to provide differential pay for their employees who enter into active military service. Michigan has approximately 2,200 members of the National Guard and 425 members of the reserve forces serving on active duty in response to the war on terrorism. These individuals and their families sacrifice a great deal to defend the nation. When called into active duty, they often lose civilian pay, although they do receive pay for their military service. However, the military pay often does not make up for the lost civilian pay, and families suffer drops in income and purchasing power while their expenses remain constant or even increase.

- HB 4117 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.